MTC Regional Means-Based Transit Fare Pricing Study

PRELIMINARY SCENARIOS

Medium-Impact

Higher-Impact

The Big Idea:

Discounted lowincome fares and/or pass program (see #2)

8

Peak/off-peak pricing (see #3)

8

Fare accumulators

(see #6)

Eliminate nonmandated cash discounts (see 'A')

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Discounted low-income fares and/or pass program

Variations

- Riders pay a discounted fare per trip (e.g., \$1.50)
- Riders can buy discounted pass (monthly, weekly and/or daily)
- Fare and pass discounts offered

Discounted off-peak fare

Variations

- Discounted off-peak fare for everyone and raise fare for everyone during peak
- Discounted off-peak fare for low income only

Regional interagency pass

Similar to BART/Muni Adult "A" Fast Pass. Would allow unlimited rides on multiple operators within a defined geographic area.

Variations

- Subregional pass

 (e.g., SamTrans &
 Caltrain; AC Transit
 & BART)
- Regional/subregional pass available to everyone
- Regional/subregional pass available to low-income riders only

Make transfers more affordable

Variations

- Discounted interagency transfers for all riders
- Increase intraagency transfer time for all riders
- Eliminate transfers and add day pass for all riders
- Discounted interagency transfers or day pass for low income only

6 Monthly fare or trip accumulators

Accumulators cap fares paid based on a set threshold (number of boardings or value) within a defined period of time. Fares may be capped on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

Variations

- Universal cap for all riders
- Separate caps for general population and low-income riders
- Cap for low-income riders only

Lower-Impact

8 Increase use of existing discounts

Examples

Add cash to

riders; no

Use commuter

check to do this

when low-income

rider puts \$1 cash

Clipper card, add

on low-income

\$2 value)

Cash match (i.e.,

Variations

Clipper® card

for low-income

change to fares

- Increase participation in youth discounts by removing barriers to obtaining youth Clipper card
- Transition from calendar monthly passes to rolling period passes

Scenario Objectives:

- **S-1.** Make transit more *affordable* for the Bay Area's low-income residents.
- **S-2.** Move towards a more *consistent regional standard* for fare discount policies.
- **S-3.** Define a transit affordability solution that is *financially viable and administratively feasible*, and does not adversely affect the transit system's service levels and performance.

Revenue Generating

Many of the scenarios above may need to be paired with one or more of the following revenue generating scenarios in order to meet Scenario Objective S-3.

A. Eliminate non-mandated cash discounts/eliminate proxies for low income

FTA requires 50% fare discount during off-peak for seniors (65+), persons with disabilities, and persons with Medicare cards.

B. Eliminate discounted fare products (e.g., monthly passes)

C. Implement fare increases for non-low-income riders